Volume 15, No. 24 • October 10, 2008

# Nation

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## Lake Matagami's Ecolodge

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editorial

# Is the Laurentian Bank racist?

*By Will Nicholls*

While the United States economy is traveling a rocky road, a few stones would seem to be traveling our way. I say seem because the Laurentian Bank's policies came into effect before the extent of the U.S. financial problems became public.

Essentially the bank is denying loans based on postal codes. Almost all Aboriginal reserves are targeted by the new policy. The bank, itself, has admitted most of them are for reserves but denies it is discriminating against First Nations people.

Gladys Caron, Vice-President Public Affairs, said the list is just a cautionary signal when making a loan. She said no one is automatically denied just because of their postal code.

This statement doesn't explain Calvin Blacksmith being refused. The Mistissini resident is a police director on a four-year leave while he is a band councillor. He is a partner in a Mistissini sports store that is doing well. He owns his own house in Mistissini. The kicker is that five years ago he had a loan with the Laurentian Bank while living in Chibougamau. Blacksmith was refused a loan to buy an ATV and said he was upset because the bank didn't even look at his credit history.

The list, created this year, only applies to people buying all-terrain vehicles from third-party merchants that finance the sale with the bank said the Laurentian Bank.

This may surprise Blacksmith who says he has a relative who was looking to buy a boat but was also refused. This relative was also a successful business owner. One wonders what standards First Nations people are being held to when applying for a loan.

Radio-Canada reported they had an internal bank e-mail that instructed Laurentian Bank employees to "refuse such files for all reasons and mention that we no longer serve that zone or postal code" and "never to say that we refuse because it's an Indian reserve" and to avoid the terms "Indian reserves, Indians and Native."

This implies the Laurentian Bank knew there might be problems or even that it acted improperly. It is certainly seen that way by anti-racist groups. Fo Niemi, executive director of the Centre for Research Action on Race Relations, said residents may consider bringing the matter up before the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

While the bank may consider its actions just good business one would expect that banks would consider loan applications case by case and base their decision on a person's credit history.

Caron said banks have concerns about loans to people who live on reserves because the land and assets there are "community owned." This implies that it is too difficult to seize assets to repay the loan.

There are ways around that said a Grand Council source making it a moot point. One incident in the south shows this is not a problem that is just related to reserves. A person locked their car in the garage so it couldn't be repossessed. It would have been trespassing to get the car said the police in that case. It required court action to get the car. In the same way wages can be garnisheed on the reserve as well as a host of other alternatives.

In the end, this is not an issue of who to lend money to or a free speech issue but an issue of whether or not the bank is doing something illegal and being discriminatory.

If a bank in the U.S. systematically refused loans to any and all with a zip code (postal code) in Harlem, New York or Roxbury, Boston then there would be race riots. It would clearly be seen as racist.

So the question here is simply whether or not the Laurentian Bank is being racist or engaging in racial profiling. If you think so and are against racism or just the bank's policy then take your money out of the bank and never use their ATM's unless it is a dire emergency.

Personally I think the policy is one that Laurentian Bank is regretting at the moment that it went public and it should. If you have bad credit then the bank should refuse you a loan and if you have good credit then it has the option to finance you. But it should never be done in the manner it has been by the Laurentian Bank.

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photo by:
**Danielle Valade**

# Post me, post me not...

*By Sonny Orr*

Sometimes life's aggravations seem to intensify at certain points in time, like when you try to buy a vehicle or big-ticket item at a store, dealership or even by mail, and then get rejected. What a bummer... Can't buy that car, even though it could be a good deal and you're sure you're a good bet when it comes to credit. The funny thing is, after a number of applications are rejected, your otherwise great credit record goes down the drain with your hopes of ever driving around a decent bazoo.

One day, not long ago, I nearly choked on that fine sesame-seed cracker en route from Montreal to home on our own fine airline, reading the daily newspaper. Tucked away neatly near the other ho-hum news was a paragraph or two about how creditors, banks and now even loan sharks who deal with your credit application, use your postal code to determine whether or not to grant you credit.

The funny thing was, the article stated, that postal codes of reserves become immediate flags to lenders, who nearly automatically reject your application without any further question or adieu. The ironic thing is that these debt financers are usually the ones to market you in the first place. So why include us in their aggressive marketing in the first place and bug us to no end until rejecting us and decreasing our chance of ever landing credit even more.

But the real issue is, that if your postal code is on reserve, you don't stand much of a chance for securing any financing, whether or not your credit rating is actually good and you have a long history of steady loan repayments or car payments.

What gives here? Is it the ultimate discrimination or what? You cannot get credit because your postal code is the same as one of the many First Nations across Canada? Isn't that just dandy to be able to brush off a customer at your car dealership and say, I don't like your postal address?

I could go on and on, but the buck doesn't stop there, it seems to extend to insurance companies on occasion, where a little white lie in your address placing you outside of the reserve helps in the application process. But why exclude us systematically? I am sure that there are more riskier applicants for credit outside reserve than there are on the Rez.

Perhaps it goes back to the days when it was illegal to lend money to Natives and it was illegal for them to use lawyers against whoever they wish, that First Native peoples land are situated in crown land and no security can be raised to back up your financial status. Perhaps we should ask the Queen to guarantee our debt requests, after all it seems that she still has some say about our lands and affairs, so she should ante up and raise the stakes to include allowable credit.

I know we can't be seized for assets and all that other stuff in case of default. I think we already pay a lot in interest, which traditionally is the bread and butter of banks, before ATM transaction charges, fees, and other hidden charges chew away any chance of making your own interest matter enough to titillate a credit manager.

*the Nation* is published every two weeks by Beesum Communications

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**THANKS TO:** Air Creebec

**WHERE TO REACH US:**
POSTMASTER:
*the Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
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www.beesum-communications.com
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Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: ads@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

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ABROAD: $110
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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642
*the Nation* IS A MEMBER OF:
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,
CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,
MAGAZINES CANADA
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN.
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS ASSN.
LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC
We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund toward our editorial costs.

# Where's the money?

## Though INAC ordered the rebuilding of flood-damaged Kashechewan, the ministry is now withholding the remaining $2.5 million owed to the Mushkegowuk Council

*By Amy German*

After a 2005 flood in Kashechewan resulted in a complete evacuation of the reserve and severe damages to many of the residences, amidst public pressure, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada began to roll out the bucks to rebuild 60 homes.

As Kashechewan itself was unable to administer the large-scale project with its community members dispersed all over northern Ontario, the responsibility was given to the Mushkegowuk Council, their grand council which represents six other nations.

"We needed to rush, we couldn't wait a couple of months, it was getting into the fall season. So, we started the work and INAC, true to its word, reimbursed us for the funding periodically," said Grand Chief Stan Louttit of the Mushkegowuk Council.

When INAC approached the Mushkegowuk Council to spearhead the rebuilding project, it was clear that it was going to be a costly undertaking as the already dilapidated homes on the reserve were now suffering from severe structural problems as a result of the flooding.

"They agreed to renovate 60 housing units in Kashechewan, but there was nothing written about the costs," said Louttit.

Without hesitation the rebuilding process began to repair the damaged homes. Millions of dollars were spent on building materials, machinery and manpower to get the project completed. With Kasechewan's population living in tents and the looming threat of winter on the horizon, time was of the essence.

"As we progressed into the project, INAC became increasingly concerned regarding the housing and the fact that it was taking a bit longer than originally expected and the expenditures were becoming higher," said Louttit.

When the project began it had no budget, only an order to rebuild. Louttit said that about halfway through the budget INAC gave some direction in terms of how much should be spent. A month later, the ministry turned around and increased the funding, though never indicating what the limit was.

As the project began to near its end, having now gone into the winter months, INAC unexpectedly decided to pull the plug on the operation and told the Mushkegowuk Council that there would be no more funding for rebuilding even though the homes were not yet finished.

Louttit said that at that point they consulted the community and its council to ask them what they felt should be done – remain in tents in -40 weather or complete the 60 homes? They chose the latter.

In total, Mushkegowuk spent $13,323,636 to rebuild Kashechewan. But, since INAC decided to cut off the funding at just over $11 million, the council says that they are still owed $2,464,740.

Claiming that there were "unwarranted" expenditures, INAC first ordered a financial review by an independent party. When review found nothing amiss with Mushkegowuk's initial spending, INAC then ordered an audit that was also preceded by a legal review.

**"THEY CONSULTED THE COMMUNITY AND ITS COUNCIL TO ASK THEM WHAT THEY FELT SHOULD BE DONE – REMAIN IN TENTS IN -40 WEATHER OR COMPLETE THE 60 HOMES?"**

While the Mushkegowuk Council was compliant with the ministry's incessant demands, after the final review INAC would still not concede and continued to refuse to pay the outstanding invoices from the council.

The Mushkegowuk Council even had itself audited over the matter and its auditor could find no wrong with its spending.

INAC has claimed that it is justified in withholding the funds because it still questions some of the expenditures and says the council did not manage the funds well.

"The deputy minister of INAC forwarded me a letter just yesterday saying that there are no more funds owing to the Mushkegowuk Council and we totally don't agree with this," said Louttit.

Though Louttit admits that some extra rooms were added to several homes, they were only acting in accordance with the national occupancy standards of the National Building Code and so they chose to follow the law.

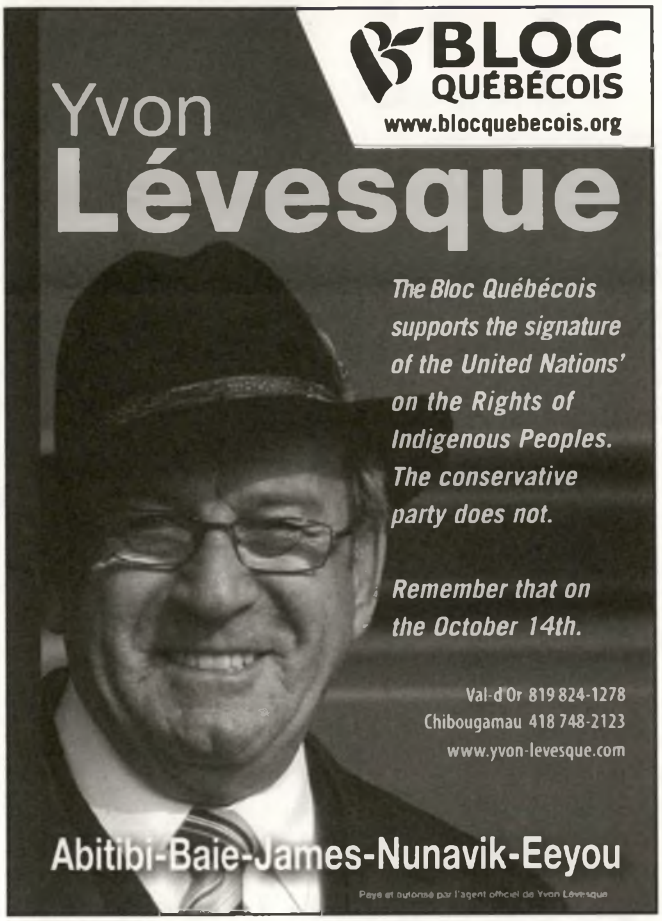
"INAC does not recognize the national standards, they have their own occupancy standards that we should have been following and with those they would have rather had 30 people living in one house," said Louttit.

Though the people of Kashechewan are back living in their homes and happy to be there, the Mushkegowuk Council is left holding an empty bag.

"We are having severe cash flow problems. We cannot pay bills relating to the project and our biweekly payroll is even a huge challenge because we sometimes don't have the funds for it," said Louttit.

With fewer than 25 employees, the Mushkegowuk Council's annual budget is under $8 million for all seven communities that they serve.

The council is now in the process of preparing a reply to INAC's deputy minister in response to his recent letter as thus far it is their only recourse.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# Avoiding bullets

## Getting drunk and firing off a gun is becoming a frequent occurrence in Eeyou Istchee

*By Jedidat Matoush*

On four occasions in the past two months – August 4 and 30, Sept. 5 and 20 – Mistissini has become one large shooting range for local partiers. It seems to be the big thing now is to get drunk with your friends, pull out your closest firearm and start shooting.

"It was never like that before," said my father Charles Matoush when I asked him what he thought of the recent incidents. "Guns were only used to hunt – nothing else."

And just when you thought it couldn't get any worse... people are actually getting shot.

On August 4, Willard William Trapper was shot in the leg by a Mistissini police officer after a confrontation. Drunk and in a fit of rage, Trapper shot about 40 bullets at anything he could aim at, including my sister's house. You don't realize how serious something has become until you hear your adolescent niece explain to you that her bedroom window is just feet away from where a bullet hit.

On September 19, I decided to head up to Mistissini for a calm and relaxing weekend with my other sister and brother-in-law who is a police officer. Saturday was supposed to be a quiet day, we were all going to go into the bush and help dig a hole for my parents' outhouse on their new piece of land just 10 minutes outside of the community.

Instead, my brother-in-law got an emergency call and has to rush back home to get changed into his uniform. Not being able to do anything to help, my sister and I decided to go into the bush anyway. As we drove off towards my parents' land, an SQ car raced past us, heading towards the community at full speed. I later learned that this was the second SQ car called to Mistissini to help assist with the situation.

My nosey instinct kicked in at once and I had to find out what was going on.

The perpetrator was Aaron Swallow. At first the SQ didn't want to confirm his name and I couldn't abuse the fact that I had family in the local police force to get more information than had been released. So after my brother-in-law kindly arranged an interview for me, I went to the police station where I met Sandra Dion, Agente aux communications for the Quebec City police department. Later, I had the chance to speak to different local people and hear their versions of the story.

Swallow is a 23-year-old Mistissini man, already known to the police and who was having issues with violence, and his girlfriend. After a long night of partying, Swallow severely beat up his girlfriend. She decided to go to the health clinic to receive treatment early Saturday morning and had even threatened Swallow that she would speak to the police and show them what he had done to her.

Swallow "lost it", according to local residents, and locked himself in his house with several firearms. He eventually left the house leading police towards the water just in front of the Mistissini Lodge where he was shot four times by SQ officers – once in the chest, once in the arm and twice in the legs. Since the incident involved both the SQ and the local police, police officers from Quebec City were sent up to investigate.

While discussing the incident with community members that night and the following day, some thought that the police were too quick to use their guns on Swallow. Dion assured me that it was necessary. "The minute that a police officer pulls the trigger," she said, "he or she knows that it will be looked at and investigated from every angle."

Again like in the case of Trapper in August, the police needed to make a fast decision based on whether they thought their lives were danger. They can't take a chance. As in the case of Swallow, he had two firearms and refused to let go of them even aiming them at the police. "People need to respect authority," said Dion. "If you don't respect the police, who do you respect?"

I think what worries people the most though, is what will happen next. First it was just some random shootings aimed towards the bush or the sky at parties. Then came the shootings by Willard William Trapper and Aaron Swallow, who got themselves shot in return.

What if a child playing in the street is next, or a police officer or any innocent person passing by? And even worse, what if next time it leads to a fatality? This trend needs to be controlled before it gets out of hand.

If you want to party, that's fine. But stay happy and leave the guns safely stored at home.

# First Nations Count.

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photo by Suzanne Bourdon

Harvey Blackned

## Cree craftspeople at the Maison amérindienne

The Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association (CNACA) is pleased to announce that Cree craftspeople and crafts will be featured from October 28 to November 30 in a photography exhibit at the Maison amérindienne.

Participants in the exhibit – devoted exclusively to First Nations artists – agreed to be photographed and to show their work at the request of Suzanne Bourdon, a volunteer who has been supporting the CNACA for three years.

Minnie Matches' baskets, Harvey Blackned's birds and Natasia Mukash's paintings will be on display at the Maison amérindienne, a venue for First Nations arts and performance located in Mont Saint-Hilaire, near Montreal.

"Our goal is to showcase fascinating and talented people who are not as well known as they should be," says Bourdon. "We are four photographers who want to make a modest contribution to promoting mutual understanding. Through art and photography, we are hoping to help people find out more about each other."

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Exhibition: October 28 to November 30
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Nov. 1: performance by Cree artists (at the vernissage)
Nov. 16: Odaya, women's choir and drums
Nov. 29: Sakay Ottawa, Attikamek singer

## Barriere Lake Algonquins slapped twice in the face

As if it wasn't bad his personal assistant racially slurred a protesting Barriere Lake youth spokesman, now Conservative MP for Pontiac and Transport Minister Lawrence Cannon is telling community members that they will have to wait until after the election to see their urgent needs met.

On September 18, Norman Matchewan, a 25-year-old community school teacher and part-time police officer decided to attend Cannon's campaign launch in Maniwaki, along with a few other community members. Attempting to meet with Cannon, who would not acknowledge them, the group followed the minister outside the building.

As they followed, Cannon's assistant Darlene Lannigan was caught on tape saying to the Algonquins, "If you behave and you're sober and there's no problems and if you don't do a sit down and whatever, I don't care," in regards to their desire to speak with Cannon.

Though the Conservative government has publicly apologized for the slur, the residents of Barriere Lake have only received lip service.

The Barriere Lake community is one of Quebec's poorest and is known for its Third World-like circumstances as its members are not beneficiaries under the Indian Act and receive very little, if any funding.

In a press release, Matchewan stated, "(Cannon) said he didn't have time to ensure the federal government accepts reasonable demands we've spent years trying to reach him about – that the government honour agreements they've signed with us, stop undemocratically propping up an illegitimate Chief and Council in our community, and appoint observers to witness a leadership re-selection and respect its outcome in order to resolve the mess they've created."

Matchewan and others from Barriere Lake have vowed to make their plight an election issue.

## Walk 4 Justice

On Monday, September 15, Elders, youth, women, men and professionals gathered in Ottawa to present the cases of all Aboriginal women missing across Canada to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and call for a full public inquiry into their disappearances.

Both organizers and volunteers left on foot from Vancouver on June 21 and arrived in Ottawa on September 15. Respected Elders and several of the victims' family members spoke on behalf of the people, explaining the importance for more attention to be given to these missing women's cases.

New cases have occurred as Walk 4 Justice travelled the country. All participants hope to open the government's eyes on the ever-growing issues concerning the disappearances and deaths of Aboriginal women.

## National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy

World Suicide Prevention Day was held on September 10. National Chief Phil Fontaine took this opportunity to express the need to expand the National Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (NAYSPS).

"The NAYSPS is making a real difference because, for the first time, communities can develop a crisis plan and projects aimed at prevention, which has not been possible in the past," said Fontaine.

*continued on page 23*

# Hanging out eco-style

## The first truly ecological lodge in Canada is on the shores of Lake Matagami

*Story and photos by Danielle Valade*

The fire that heats the hot tub sits beneath the water's surface. A fresh August wind cuts briskly through the northern Quebec forest, pinching bare shoulders. Whitecaps whip across Matagami Lake – in sharp contrast with the steam from the fragrant cedar tub. The welcome is warm at the Ecolodge.

As the goose flies, the Ecolodge is situated 35-kms from Matagami. Nestled deep in the boreal forest, lakeside, protected from fishing and hunting, three wooden cabins and two yurts blend seamlessly into the natural beauty. An ancient design, round-domed yurts emerge like mushrooms from the earth, cloaked in white canvas. They are beautiful rooms, 20-feet in diameter, spacious and bright.

The three 16x24 cabins are built only with green materials and have the warmth, look and feel of wood. The roof is made from 6-in thermo-molded panels, and the walls, windows and doors are high-energy efficiency. The roofs have a perfect pitch to provide an ideal summer or winter temperature and collect rainwater, which is heated by an on-demand propane heater for showers.

Grey water is filtered in a dry septic field. All lighting is 12-volt led – so bright you never miss "traditional" electricity. All cabins and yurts have a lake-view and are fully equipped with their own bathrooms with showers and odourless compost toilets. Each comes with its own private deck and cedar hot tub. Inside, top-of-the-line wood stoves make the nights warm and cozy.

The roof of one of the cabins functions as the powerhouse, layered with solar panels. In a clearing several metres away stand two wind turbines, generating clean energy on cloudy days.

Taking 18 months to build, through sweat and mosquitoes, Ecolodge is a labour of love by workers whose care made all the difference. The brainchild of James McGregor (of Eco-Planet), Olivier Allenbach and Daniel Cliche (of Matagami Development Corporation), this is the first truly ecological lodge in Canada.

The lodge sits on the trapline of Laurence Otter. After open and honest discussions, the Cree Elder gave his blessing to Cliche and the project, knowing that the land would be loved and protected.

"Ecolodge is the perfect example of a project created in harmony between Natives and non-Natives," says a smiling Cliche, who wants to see more such development.

In order to make the smallest footprint on the environment, very few trees were cut on the site. This results in a unique privacy between each of the lodge's buildings. The way to travel between the cabins, yurts, beach and dock is on wooden sidewalks large enough for ATVs. While beautiful and eco-friendly, according to Cliche, these narrow walkways presented big challenges.

Bringing in the building machinery and materials, especially the 75' long wind-turbine poles, without heavy trucks or lifting gear, was a technical tour de force. Erecting walls and installing tall roofs without scarring the surrounding land was accomplished with an elegant combination of traditional construction methods and future-thinking green design.

One of the two yurts acts as a gathering space where guests can chat with each other over gourmet meals prepared by host Hugues Lévesque, a great storyteller and even better chef. The lodge can accommodate a maximum of 12 people.

Guests leave their vehicles in Matagami and are transported, if weather permits, by Zodiac, or by the lodge shuttle. Equipment for sports activities is available including gear for kayaking, bicycling, windsurfing and canoeing. In the winter, go snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Or simply take a quiet moment on the beach, lounging beside a 400-year-old cedar tree.

When guests go to play in the forest or on the lake, they always leave with a radio to communicate with the host. Security is paramount. Nature walks or bicycle rides on the old forestry roads are wonderful – the forest is a jewel of lichens, mushrooms, moss and rocks. Cliche suggests guests travel to a picnic spot by the rapids where they will be met with a lunch basket.

Too tired to trek back? Ecolodge will pick you up by Zodiac and bring you back. Upon return, you'll find your hot tub warm and waiting.

And how is the water heated? Fire in water. A metal box three quarters immersed in the water contains the flames. To feed the fire simply lift the cover and drop in a new log. A vent rises out of the flames, filling the air with a smoky fragrance mixed with the sweet smell of wet cedar. Breathe in deep.

You will never forget the Ecolodge experience, a truly beautiful place in a stunning setting. Deep in the boreal forest sits off-grid paradise.

Go experience it and tell the tale: encourage people be green with envy.

For information on the Ecolodge contact: ecolodge@matagami.com or visit www.matagami.com/ecolodge

Daniel Cliche by the 400 year old cedar

# What a catch!

## A dangerous fishing trip turns into a life-changing experience for one man

*By Paul Taillefer*

Fishing is tremendous. We have to learn how to use boats and motors, to know lakes and rivers, the danger hidden under the water... At the same time, we learn the proper use of our fishing gear, good fishing spots and the most important: find a good fishing pal to share those great moments. I met all kinds of "fishermen". Some cannot get in a boat without a few beer bottles, some drive boats as if they were trucks on a paved road and others can't wear life vests. Fishing stories are often the fruit of their fruitful imaginations.

For me, I have my experiences and there is a lot to learn. I had the chance to go fishing with Anderson Jolly from Nemaska and I hope that I will have that privilege again. He teaches me many things. Among his teachings, I am learning to know the lakes and the traps you can't see as well as not to take chances, be patient and respect nature.

Last time I went with Anderson we went to some rapids where there was nice trout. Since that river was closed to non-Natives, I didn't fish. I took a good walk and I observed a patient and passionate fisherman. He explained a few things about trout fishing that he learned from his grandfather, Anderson Jolly Sr., and I appreciated this privileged moment.

In the middle of the day I slipped on a rock and fell into the rapids. It happened so fast. I had water over my head and I could not touch the bottom. The current was very strong. I was finally able to put my fingers into a crack in a rock but I could not do more. Anderson was close to me and as a reflex; he bent down and told me to grab his hand. He pulled me out of the water so easily I could not believe it. Imagine pulling a 265-pound man, all wet, with one hand, out of the rapids! It is almost impossible but he did it. I think he was more frightened than me. I think what he saw made him more aware of the reality of the situation.

Anderson Jolly

It is obvious that on that Monday, Anderson saved my life. I have no doubt about it! I am grateful and I want to thank him publicly. That day, I learned never go fishing alone and that nobody is accident-proof. But, above all, Anderson is a courageous man, quick of mind and deserves the trust I have in him. Thank you, Anderson. Be proud of yourself.

# Enrich your life & reach your goals

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The CBHSSJB is looking for skilled and qualified individuals to work as future Community Health Representatives (CHRs) within its organization.

This Attestation of Collegial Studies (ACS) training is open to both men and women and will be offered in English at the CEGEP of Abitibi-Témiscamingue in Val-d'Or.
The new program is officially registered with the Ministry of Education, Leisure and Sports of Quebec (MELS).
The CEGEP of Abitibi-Témiscamingue is committed to providing support to successful applicants in finding lodging for the duration of the program.
The length of the ACS program is 18 months and the capacity per group is approximately 20 students per program.

The following is the schedule for the 3 groups:

- First group: January 2009 to June 2010 (application period: Oct. 10 to Nov. 30, 2008)
- Second group: June 2009 to January 2011 (application period: March 31 to May 15, 2009)
- Third group: January 2010 to June 2011 (application period: Sept. 29 to Nov. 13, 2009)

Register for the CHR training at the CEGEP Abitibi-Témiscamingue and become an accredited Community Health Representative.

For information or to register for the course please contact:

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Nursing Councillor Officer
Department of Human Resources, CBHSSJB
Chisasibi, Quebec J0M 1E0
Tel: (819) 855-2844 ext. 5292
Fax: (819) 855-2680
Cell: (819) 855-5302
Email francinenoel@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

René Bellemarre RN
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

*This initiative is made possible through collaboration between the CBHSSJB, the CEGEP of Abitibi-Témiscamingue Val-d'Or Campus, the Cree Human Resources Department (CHRD), the Cree Regional Authority (CRA) and Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative (AHHRI).*

# A Blade Story

## Though the crooked knife is as common to Crees as geese and snow, the knife's history extends back to the Stone Age

*By Amy German*

The crooked knife, also known as the drawknife or muuhkutaakan in Cree, was revolutionized by the European introduction of iron. However, prior to that its origins reach as far back as the Stone Age.

According to author Russell Jalbert, who – along with his son Ned – wrote Mocotaugan: The Story and Art of the Crooked Knife, the knife was a common tool for most Indigenous peoples across North America even though many considered it a Woodland Native artifact.

"The toward-the-body motion that is unique to the crooked knife started back in the Stone Age and it came over the Bering land bridge after the last Ice Age" said Jalbert during a recent phone interview.

Jalbert's interest in the Native artifact stems from his son's collection, which is one of the most extensive collections of antique crooked knives in the world.

Through their research the Jalberts discovered that though the drawknife characteristic disappeared among all of the other Aboriginals except the Inuit of Alaska and Natives throughout the north of the continent. They were common to inhabitants from Alaska to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and down the east coast to North Carolina. Their museum research even found examples of them as far south as Florida.

"One of the most original contributions that we made in our research on this was that we were able to trace the development of the knife from where it started as a flat, football-shaped stone to that stone attached to a knife blade. And, after that the next step was improving the quality of the blade from the first found stones to crafted flint and similar materials which would yield a sharper edge," explained Jalbert.

When researching the knives the Jalberts also found evidence of unique early versions made with beaver teeth.

The knives did not evolve until European fishermen arrived on the shores of North America. The fishermen would trade with the Natives, who quickly learned the possibilities of iron and adapted it to their own needs.

The addition of the curved tip to the crooked knife only came about after the introduction of iron.

"The vast majority of blades were made by Natives with recycled metal of any kind, spoke rings from wagon wheels, old pots, old files. Anything they could get their hands on was adapted into making blades," stated Jalbert.

> "THE VAST MAJORITY OF BLADES WERE MADE BY NATIVES WITH RECYCLED METAL OF ANY KIND, SPOKE RINGS FROM WAGON WHEELS, OLD POTS, OLD FILES."

So popular were these utilitarian knives as they were used for everything from carving cups and bowls to ceremonial items to treating skins and hides, the European eventually caught onto them.

The Hudson's Bay Company, once learning the value of the knife, began having them made in Sheffield, England and selling them under the moniker of mocotaugan, the Algonquin word for the crooked knife.

According to the book, "This spelling first appeared in 1748 on a Hudson's Bay Company list of trade goods, 60 years after the HBC set up its first trading post at Rupert House. Also, mocotaugan was the first word used to identify the knife in a major institutional setting, the British Museum, about 1836."

According to Jalbert, there are numerous sizes for the crooked knives as they were crafted for different uses.

"The typical knife was formed as a toward-the-body tool and the blade was about four inches long and turned up at the tip, it was something like a ski," said Jalbert.

Jalbert recalled coming across one knife in a Florida museum that was curled up into three quarters of a circle like a button hook.

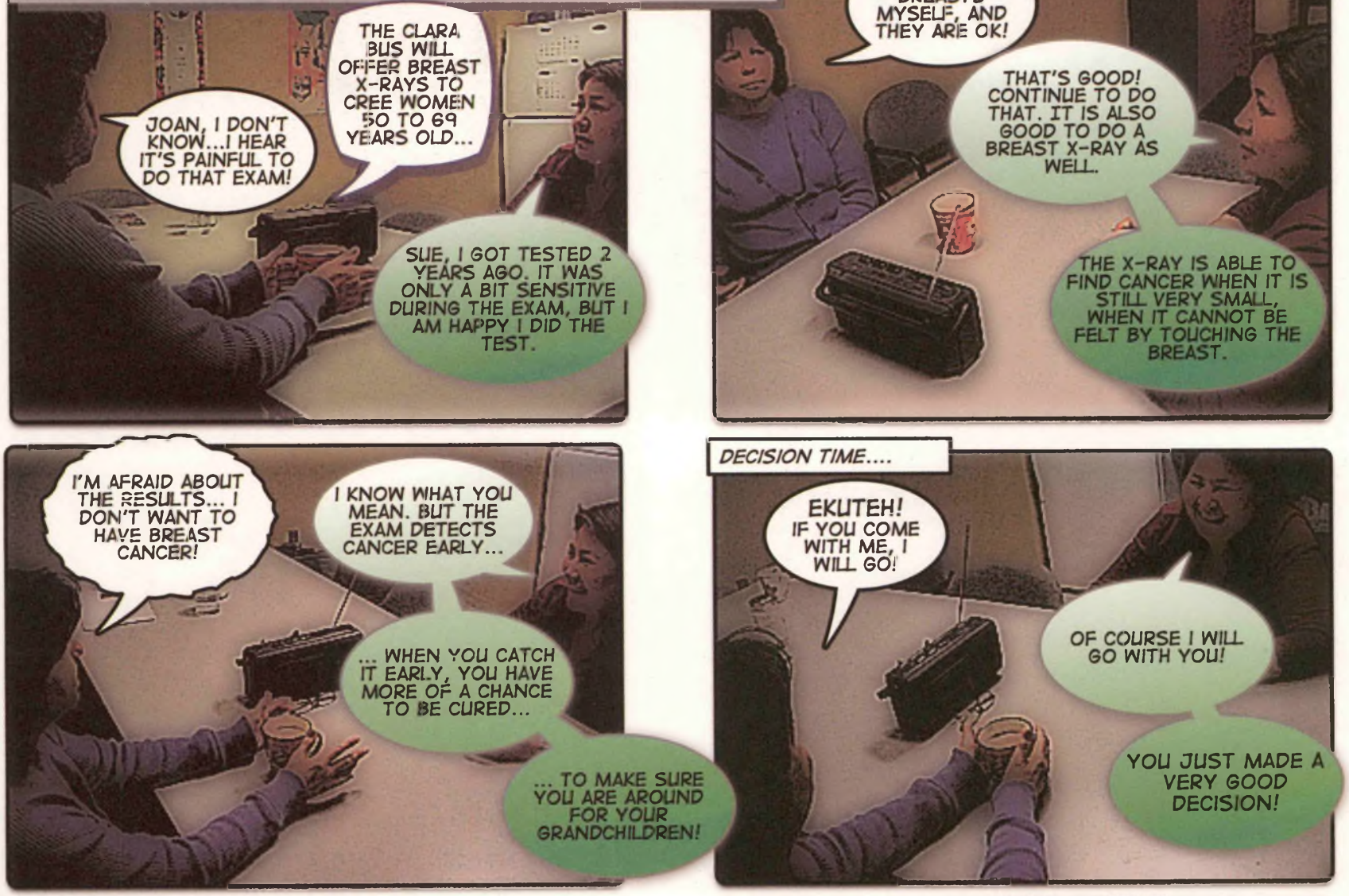
Crooked knife found on the Rupert

Though it might have been as common in the North, amongst the Woodland Natives, crooked knives featured elaborately decorated handles. The arrival of the European had a marked influence on the embellishment of these knives. Prior to the arrival, the artistic carvings were more reflective of Aboriginal culture.

According to the book, "Many embellished mocotaugans include design elements that can be traced to England, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland and the several Scandinavian countries. Typical of these borrowed elements are the fleur-de-lis, the shamrock and floral patterns. After the Dominion of Canada was founded in 1876, Natives began to use the new nation's emblem of the maple leaf."

To find out more about the history and art of the crooked knife, sections of the book can be downloaded from the Jalberts' website: www.mocotauganthebook.com

# Ä ndü'chischäy'mäkinüt iskow udüdüshim'hch uhch in kä muwäch ähkusün


JOAN, I DON'T KNOW...I HEAR IT'S PAINFUL TO DO THAT EXAM!
THE CLARA BUS WILL OFFER BREAST X-RAYS TO CREE WOMEN 50 TO 69 YEARS OLD...
SUE, I GOT TESTED 2 YEARS AGO. IT WAS ONLY A BIT SENSITIVE DURING THE EXAM, BUT I AM HAPPY I DID THE TEST.
I CHECK MY BREASTS MYSELF, AND THEY ARE OK!
THAT'S GOOD! CONTINUE TO DO THAT. IT IS ALSO GOOD TO DO A BREAST X-RAY AS WELL.
THE X-RAY IS ABLE TO FIND CANCER WHEN IT IS STILL VERY SMALL, WHEN IT CANNOT BE FELT BY TOUCHING THE BREAST.
I'M AFRAID ABOUT THE RESULTS... I DON'T WANT TO HAVE BREAST CANCER!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. BUT THE EXAM DETECTS CANCER EARLY...
... WHEN YOU CATCH IT EARLY, YOU HAVE MORE OF A CHANCE TO BE CURED...
... TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE AROUND FOR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN!
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

# Islands and Youth

**Offshore islands and the Cree School Board problems were the hot topics at the Council Board meetings as Cree leadership congregated in downtown Montreal last month**

*By Amy German*

Both youth and land and their respective futures were on the table for discussion at Council Board meetings where local chiefs, Cree governance, members of various boards and other concerned individuals came together September 23 and 24 at Montreal's Delta Hotel to contemplate what to do.

September 23 was devoted entirely to the fate of the offshore islands that lie off the Wemindji portion of the James Bay coast from South Twin Island in the north to Weston Island and Old Factory Islands in the south.

The community of Wemindji has been working on a proposal in conjunction with three different government departments – Parks Canada, The Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Environment Canada – for a Marine Protected Area project. For cultural and ecological reasons they are looking to expand the initially proposed area and have worked on this in consultation with the communities of Eastmain and Chisasibi.

Both the Cree and the Inuit have been trying to negotiate a deal with the federal government to protect the offshore islands and their surrounding waters since 1974 when the James Bay agreement-in-principal was signed. While the talks have broken down several times over the last 34 years, the Inuit did manage to sign a treaty this past June.

The proposed treaty would see ownership of the protected lands and waterways shared jointly between the Cree and the Inuit.

"We were talking about a wildlife management system, a planning commission and other things like that ," said Chisasibi Chief Roderick Pachano.

Protecting the area would not only ensure the continued traditional practices of both communities but it would also ensure environmental protection for the area from potential problems like marine shipping and potential fallout from industrial development.

The Council Board meetings saw an overview of what the negotiations have been since the 1970s until present.

"A couple more meetings and we should have an agreed text with all of the issues resolved so it is a negotiated treaty," said Pachano.

Once the agreed upon text is ready, consultations will begin in the communities and then a referendum will occur so that the treaty can be passed.

Part of the objective is to ensure that the proposed treaty would be reflective of Cree values and beliefs and equally important that there would be a sufficient structure for the treaty to be implemented.

Having learned from the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Pachano said, "This also will provide for the Cree and the Inuit in the joint areas to work together with the government to make sure that the agreement is implemented the way that it is supposed to be."

## Cree School Board

On September 24, the focus was on the overwhelming problems within the Cree School Board and its institutions.

The day began with a letter addressed to Grand Chief Matthew Mukash from the principals of the CSB.

It detailed how substance abuse is rampant in the schools in all nine communities and that there are a number of social impacts that stem from this problem. Substances such as crystal meth, alcohol, gas/propane and even liquid paper are being abused to the point of addiction by not only teenagers but children as young as 8.

"As school managers, we feel that we are running a social services centre rather than a learning and educational centre," the letter stated.

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# Welcome to Matagami

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## *Matagami is the "Gateway to the James Bay Territory".*

Take your time to enjoy and discover what our region has to offer. Matagami is known for an outstanding quality of life in a setting where nature is all around you. Besides numerous facilities, our young town also has several activities all year-round for your enjoyment. Please visit our website for more information:
**www.matagami.com**

The letter also pointed out how finding solutions to these problems is nearing impossible to the point of actually having to enlist the aid of the Grand Chief and Council as Youth Protection, Social Services and the Police are already overwhelmed. Beyond that, parent meetings to address these issues are not working, strategic planning sessions go unattended and the implementation of these strategies is not happening and the CHB receives little feedback from the social services.

The principals would like to see curfews imposed, awareness/ prevention programs, support lines for both children and parents, in-community treatment programs, an interdisciplinary intervention group and more recreation programs for youth among many other suggestions.

"This meeting was called by the Grand Chief and Deputy Grand Chief and they called for a meeting jointly with the commissioners. This is something that has not happened since 1988. I think there is a realization here that these issues are very serious," said the CSB's General Director Abraham Jolly.

The recent CSB review was also discussed in conjunction with the substance and related social problems that the school board has been facing. Just as the students themselves are not doing well, neither are the actual institutions.

"What needs to come out at the Cree School Board is really our implementation plans based on the educational and school board reviews that we were talking about," said Jolly.

According to Jolly, the framework for education has not seemed clear since 1978 when the education act was created through the JBQNA. What the CSB goes on is a mixture of its own programming and that from the Ministry of Education.

Despite all the attempts of setting up a Cree Education Act since it was initiated in the late 80s or early 90s, Jolly said that there has not been much movement in legitimizing it since then.

As far as Jolly is concerned a lot of clarification is needed to define what "Cree education" is and what the Cree curriculum should look like.

"I think we are more involved with the idea of Cree control of education rather than Cree education itself in terms of how we develop the curriculum," said Jolly.

Jolly also pointed to the language-development problems within the first few grades of school. In 1988 it was decided that Cree language instruction would be part of the Cree curriculum in the first three grades, but it is not being taught sufficiently. If the language is not developed properly before children hit Grade 3 it will have lasting effects on their academic life. Jolly said this is a root problem for the CHB.

Once a student has completed the first three years of the Cree Language of Instruction Program, the issue then becomes how the student will adapt to a Grade 4 curriculum in the chosen language of English or French.

"Again, the transition is telling us that kids do not comprehend the language," said Jolly.

As a result, Jolly said that the CSB is now consulting external sources to see how language delivery can be improved in the early years of schooling.

It was decided unanimously at the Council Board meetings that there be a special General Assembly held in Chisasibi November 4-6 to address the crisis within the CSB and its schools which would involve social services, the health board and law enforcement.

CSB Chairman Gordon Blackned felt positive about the day of talks as it resulted in the upcoming general assembly.

"People are asking for solutions. I think this discussion will give us time to think about the issues and work towards finding solutions," said Blackned.

Speaking on behalf of the youth at these meetings was Youth Grand Chief Stacy Bear.

While Bear's own experience within a CSB school was a positive one, a decade later she is very aware of how things had changed dramatically. Bear sees the problems that the youth are facing today as not simply being a matter of pedagogical weakness or social sicknesses but a fundamental loss in one of the most primary of Cree values – respect.

Though she recognized the importance of the meeting taking place, what she felt was missing from it was the opinion of those most concerned by the school board discussions – the youth.

In terms of the social issues that are consuming the CSB's focus, one basic ideology in terms of prevention that Bear put forward was that of social responsibility.

"Every single one of us as individuals needs to start being the example for kids because every one of us is a role model. I am a role model to the younger generation, the Elders are role models to all of us and even five-year-olds are role models to four-year-olds," said Bear.

Grand Chief Matthew Mukash acknowledged the problems that the youth are facing do not stem solely from their academic surroundings, but are also rooted in the homes and elsewhere.

He pointed to how it is time that young people relearn the Cree value system – which has been diminished over time as a result of colonization and modernization – as a means of addressing their current struggles.

"A lot of problems are solved when a child knows where his or her ancestors come from and those cultural teachings. The Cree value system is the first thing that you need to learn to be able to respect yourself. They (Elders) tell you, if you are not a happy person, you are not going to make others happy. The teachings always start with you."

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# MORE MOVING WOES

## As the October 17 deadline to move to Mistissini looms, Cree Health Board workers continue to file grievances with their union

*By Amy German*

While it's hard to find an employee at the Public Health Department of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay who actually disagrees with the board's move in theory, very few of them have anything positive to say about how the board went about the move.

"Right now our employer is not respecting our collective agreement," said Rebecca Swallow who is president of the local union for the health and social-service workers of the CBHSSJB. The collective agreement in question is the working conditions negotiated by the Fédération de la santé et des services sociaux (FSSS) with the Quebec government.

FSSS union members consist of permanent, full-time employees who are either nurses working as PROs (Planning and Research Program Officers), secretaries, administrative technicians, dental hygienists and other health employees related to the sector.

At the heart of the issue is not just how these unionized members feel about being given little time between when they were told to move up north or find themselves jobless, but how the CBHSSJB has yet to define whether the move is a total closure of one office or a move of the home base.

The definition of the move is pertinent to what employees are entitled to in terms of their union contracts. Without this definition of status, many of these workers find themselves between a rock and a hard place, not knowing what kind of recourse they could have.

According to Swallow, the CBHSSJB is not respecting the employees' job-security program or Service régional de main-d'œuvre (SRMO). Under the SRMO, should employees be required to relocate beyond an 80-km distance, they are entitled to a three-month mobility premium which is equivalent to three months of salary.

**"WHY THE EMPLOYEES ARE NOT TOO HAPPY IS DUE TO THE WAY THE SITUATION WAS HANDLED. "**

If, on the other hand, the CBHSSJB defines the move as a total closure of its Montreal office, the employees are entitled to priority placement for jobs through their union within the Montreal area. They are also entitled to their salary, courtesy of their former employer, until such time that they find new, gainful employment in their respective fields.

Swallow said that the CBHSSJB is currently attempting to block its employees from gaining access to the SRMO program by not defining the status of the move.

"We know that if the employees are put under the SRMO program, the employer has to pay back what the employees are going to be paid. That is probably why the employer does not want to apply those articles under the job-security program," said Swallow.

The CBHSSJB has defended the move to north saying its position has always been that the move was an eventuality and the employees were always aware of that. However, it is the short notice of the move that most employees are taking issue with.

According to Swallow, CBHSSJB employees were originally informed of the ambitious move on April 1 and that the deadline to move to Mistissini would happened sometime in August. Feeling that the notice was far too short, they applied to have the move extended to a later date but October 17 was the latest the Board was willing to push the deadline.

Public Health building as of September 19, 2008

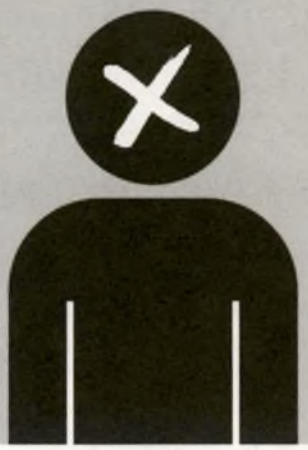
At the same time, many FSSS union members are reluctant to move to north over concerns about their actual office space and working conditions. According to Swallow and various employees who have spoken to *the Nation* off the record, the new trailer offices are not yet set up and do not yet have established telephone lines or running water. The employees who have accepted relocation will apparently work from their new homes until such time that the new office space is functional.

"Why the employees are not too happy is the way the situation was handled. I don't think there was any communication or information given to them on these processes or what is going to happen," said Swallow.

"We are still in the process of seeking legal advice. It hasn't ended for us yet."

## A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.

# New identification rules to vote!



## WHEN YOU VOTE, YOU MUST PROVE YOUR IDENTITY AND ADDRESS.

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Provide **one original piece of identification** issued by a government or government agency containing your photo, name and address.
e.g.: **driver's licence**

**OR**

Provide **two original pieces of identification** authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. **Both pieces must contain your name and one must also contain your address.**
e.g.: health card and hydro bill

**OR**

**Swear an oath and be vouched for by an elector** who is on the list of electors in the same polling division and who has an acceptable piece or pieces of identification.
e.g.: a neighbour, your roommate

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- Hospital Card
- Social Insurance Number Card
- Birth Certificate
- Driver's Licence
- Provincial/Territorial Identification Card
- Canadian Passport
- Certificate of Indian Status
- Certificate of Canadian Citizenship or Citizenship Card
- Credit/Debit Card with elector name
- Canadian Forces Identity Card
- Veterans Affairs Canada Health Card
- Employee Card issued by employer
- Old Age Security Identification Card
- Public Transportation Card
- Student ID Card
- Library Card
- Liquor Identification Card
- Canadian Blood Services/ Héma-Québec Card
- Fishing Licence
- Wildlife Identification Card
- Hunting Licence
- Firearm Acquisition Card/ Firearm Possession Card
- Outdoors Card and Licences
- Local Community Service Centre Card (CLSC)

#### ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (containing name and address)

- Credit Card Statement
- Bank Statement
- Utility Bill (residential telephone, cable TV, public utilities commission, hydro, gas or water)
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authority of an Indian band or reserve
- Local Property Tax Assessment
- School, College or University Report Card or Transcript
- Residential Lease, Residential Mortgage Statement or Agreement
- Canada Child Tax Benefit Statement
- Income Tax Assessment Notice
- Insurance Policy
- Government Cheque or Government Cheque Stub with elector name
- Statement of Employment Insurance Benefits Paid (T4E)
- Canada Pension Plan Statement of Contributions/Quebec Pension Plan Statement of Participation
- Statement of Old Age Security (T4A) or Statement of Canada Pension Plan Benefits (T4AP)
- Statement of Benefits from provincial workplace safety or insurance board
- Statement of Direct Deposit for provincial works or provincial disability support program
- Vehicle Ownership
- Vehicle Insurance
- Attestation of Residence issued by the responsible authorities (shelters, soup kitchens, student/senior residences, long-term care facilities)
- Letter from public curator

**Note: The pieces of identification required under the *Canada Elections Act* are not the same as those for provincial or municipal elections.**

The above information is also available in a number of heritage and Aboriginal languages on the Elections Canada Web site at **www.elections.ca.**

**www.elections.ca**

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**TTY 1-800-361-8935**
for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

**Elections Canada**

# Party Roundup!

## As the federal election draws closer, party promises become juicier as new promises abound in an attempt to win over voters

*By Amy German*

*As October 14 draws nearer, the race for votes grows tighter with every political party having put its best foot forward with fully unveiled campaign platforms. With overlap on issues between the parties and endless campaign promises that could be too good to be true, when it comes to selecting a new government, the choice is yours.*

### The Conservative Party

So far the Conservative Party is the only contender to not release an actual platform. With that said, more of the same can be expected from this party. Instead of promising Canadians new policies and spending expenditures, its focus has been about looking at what it has established through fiscal responsibility since the last election and focusing on leadership. Rather than offering up goodies to voters, the campaign has been focused outwardly on what a bad leader Liberal Stéphane Dion would be, how the Liberals are irresponsible spenders compared to the budget-surplus-obsessed Conservatives and how their tax cuts and bonus for families would disappear should the Liberals rule the roost again.

### The Liberal Party

Not only are the Liberals promising to balance Canada's books, steering clear of a deficit, their four-year, $55 billion election-campaign platform promises $16.3 billion in new program spending and more than $40 billion in tax cuts within that time. A new $40 billion would go to their environmental plan, The Green Shift, $620 million for social housing, $500 million devoted to foreign aid and a plan to devote $2.1 billion to the implementation of the Kelowna Accord. The Liberals are also promising major tax cuts and a whole bevy of programs for poorer Canadians, parents, farmers and immigrants.

### The New Democratic Party

The NDP's $51.6 billion election platform features a mixed bag of goodies for all Canadians. Jack Layton's NDP would see $50-billion worth in tax cuts go to average Canadians in the form of child care, health care and monies devoted to cities. Over the next four years, $6 billion would go to families and childcare with a major boost to the "baby bonus." An additional $6 billion would also be rolled out for their green campaign, with a large sum going to boosting "green-collar jobs" among other things. A new $3.5 billion would be injected into new health-care objectives and an additional $400 million would go into public-transit systems.

### The Bloc Québécois

The party's anchor campaign promises are all about how the Bloc is the ideal opposition for the Conservative government since Stephen Harper cannot be trusted. Rather than focus on cash promises since the Bloc can never be a ruling party, its aim is to sell values to the public. These values include ensuring the protection of Bill 101, ensuring integration for immigrants, more control over Quebec culture, funding Quebec-based social development organizations, reducing the province's dependency on oil and lots of promises to Quebec's enraged artistic community that would suffer under the Conservatives.

### The Green Party

Canada's environmental party's ideology is based on the future: "a livable world, with enough for everyone, with healthy communities based on healthy economies, secure for future generations," so their website states. Offering Canadians the most comprehensive environmental policy, the Green Party is also putting forward programs to create healthy businesses, renegotiation of the Free Trade Agreement, GST investments into infrastructure, hefty health promotion campaigns and closing Canada's economic gap.

### The First Peoples National Party

One of Canada's newest parties, the First Peoples National Party of Canada will field six candidates across the country for their second only election. The ideology behind the FPNP is based on Elders teachings with the particular principal of "inclusion" being at the forefront so to bring the culture of inclusion to Parliament. The FPNP promises to work on getting the other federal parties to work together, slow down environmental erosion and resource exploitation and actually put themselves as Aboriginals at the table to be able to represent Aboriginal issues, consult on land claims and ensure the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

With that said, Happy Voting!

# NEEDED

Does anyone have old photos and especially old film footage from the late 1960s and 70s in the Cree communities ? Or even in the cities when you old guys were young hippies at school?

Neil Diamond is doing a documentary called REEL INJUN about the image of Indians in Hollywood films and he would love to include pictures and especially film footage of Crees with headbands - being groovy back in the day.

The film will be shown in theatres and on television in the USA, Canada and Europe.

Please contact Neil directly at 514-272-3077. Thanks.


OCTOBER 2008

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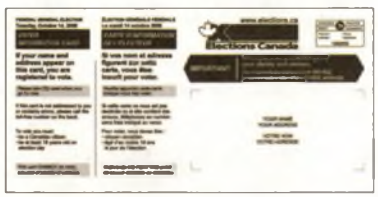
**This Tuesday, vote.**

**A federal general election is taking place on October 14, 2008.**



**For information on where and when to vote, check your voter information card.** It tells you where and when to vote. You'll get through the voting process more quickly if you have it with you.

**You will find the voting hours for your polling station** on your voter information card or at **www.elections.ca** by clicking on "Voter Information Service".

**If you haven't received this card**, you are probably not on the voters list. To register, all you need to do is go to your polling station on election day, where you must prove your identity and address.

## New identification rules to vote

When you vote, you must prove your identity and address.

For the list of acceptable pieces of identification authorized by the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, please see the pamphlet you received by mail from Elections Canada or visit **www.elections.ca** and click on "Voter Identification at the Polls".

To vote, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- **prove your identity and address**

**You can choose to make a difference.**

**www.elections.ca**

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**1-800-463-6868**
toll-free in Canada and the United States, or 001-800-514-6868 toll-free in Mexico

**TTY 1-800-361-8935**
for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, toll-free in Canada and the United States, or 613-991-2082 from anywhere in the world

Elections Canada

## On the Road to Victory

The Weekend to End Breast Cancer benefiting the Jewish General Hospital is a 60-km, two-day walk and is scheduled each summer in Montreal on August 23 and 24. This has been a great privilege for me and my husband to walk for the second time in this event. It is an important cause to be considered for all women and survivors like me.

You see I am a breast cancer survivor going on my 4th year and I am walking in faith and hope in God and this is why I continue to walk each summer for this cause. I want to do all that I can do since I am here and well.

This year I walked with a team, Team Hope, and it included my husband Paul, my daughter Beverly and my sister Suzanne Bush. I thank each one of them for coming with me on this walk. I salute them for being courageous and brave. You endured all the blisters, hot days and the long, long walk. We did it! I also want to recognize the other ladies from Waswanipi who participated in the walk along with one other survivor from Chisasibi, Hilda Spencer.

I personally want to thank all out sponsors that donated to this important cause, without your donations we could not have done this walk. The Weekend to End Breast Cancer raised $6 million to go towards breast cancer research and treatments. This is where all your dollars are spent at the Jewish General Hospital's Segal Cancer Centre. Thank you for giving us the chance to participate in the walk. You are the heroes!

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!
Phil 4:13

Emma B. Mianscum
Breast Cancer Survivor
Mistissini



continued from page 9

First Nations youth commit suicide at a rate up to six times higher than Canadian youth. First Nations adults commit suicide three times more than the Canadian average. This of course happens less in communities that have high levels of cultural independence, such as land claims and self-government. On the other hand, some of the main causes for suicide are poverty, poor health and low self-esteem.

NAYSPS helps First Nations partner with education, health and justice workers to identify people who are at risk and help them take measures towards leading a happy and healthy life.

## Attawapiskat Kids Take on the Federal Government

Continuing their fight for a proper school, the children of the Ontario Cree community of Attawapiskat are attempting to raise funds to go to Toronto for a first-ever children's conference to be held on November 26.

Timmins-James Bay NDP MP Charlie Angus stated, "The Attawapiskat School campaign has become the largest youth-driven child-rights movement in Canadian history. Over the last year we have had hundreds of schools take up the campaign and start up the campaign on their own without any prompting."

Attawapiskat's school has been housed in dilapidated trailers since the actual school building was closed down in 2000 due to diesel contamination.

Though Indian and Northern Affairs has made many promises to build a new school, it has yet to happen. Under the reign of current INAC Minister Chuch Strahl, funding has become mysteriously unavailable to rebuild the much-needed school.

"What we decided to do with the Attawapiskat school campaign was to bring some of these youth activists together in what will be a very much unprecedented form to have Native and non-Native students come together to talk about the inequities in education," said Angus.

The Toronto children's conference will bring together hundreds of school children from across Ontario along with several Ontario-based teacher associations for the purposes of brainstorming and raising awareness about the educational apartheid First Nations Children are facing.

The students of Attawapiskat will also be participating in the United Nation's review of Canada's international obligations under the rights of the child as they have already filed a complaint against Canada in the form of a lengthy letter describing their plight.

A youth team from the Mushkegowuk tribal council and the youth of Attawapiskat are currently trying to raise funds to get to Toronto for the children's conference. To contribute, contact John B. Nakogee at the Attawapiskat Education Authority at 705-997-2232.

# MISSING

Maisy Odjick, 16, and Shannon Mathewski Alexander, 17, from Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg in Maniwaki, Quebec have been missing since Saturday, September 5th 2008. Maisy has brown eyes and short brown hair; she also has 2 piercings on her bottom lip and on her left nostril. If anyone has seen either of these girls please contact our local police @819-449-6000, or Maisy's mom, Laurie Odjick, @ 819-441-3055.Please pass on this information to anyone you may know.

OCTOBRE 2008

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**Ce mardi, on vote.**

**Une élection générale fédérale aura lieu le 14 octobre 2008.**

**Pour savoir où et quand voter, consultez votre carte d'information de l'électeur.**
Le processus de vote sera plus rapide si vous l'avez en main.

**Vous trouverez les heures d'ouverture de votre bureau de scrutin** sur votre carte d'information de l'électeur ou à **www.elections.ca** en cliquant sur « Service d'information à l'électeur ».

**Si vous n'avez pas reçu cette carte,** vous n'êtes probablement pas inscrit sur la liste électorale. Pour vous inscrire, il suffit de vous présenter à votre bureau de scrutin le jour de l'élection, où vous devrez prouver votre identité et votre adresse.

## Nouvelles mesures d'identification pour voter

Au moment de voter, vous devez prouver votre identité et votre adresse.

Pour connaître la liste des pièces d'identité acceptées par le directeur général des élections du Canada, consultez le dépliant que vous avez reçu par la poste ou visitez le **www.elections.ca** et cliquez sur « Identification de l'électeur au bureau de scrutin ».

Pour voter, vous devez :
- tre citoyen canadien;
- tre âgé d'au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection;
- **prouver votre identité et votre adresse.**

**Vous pouvez faire un geste qui compte.**

**www.elections.ca**

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sans frais au Canada et aux États-Unis, ou
001-800-514-6868 sans frais au Mexique

**ATS 1-800-361-8935**
pour les personnes sourdes ou malentendantes, sans frais au Canada et aux États-Unis, ou 613-991-2082 de êartout au monde

Elections Canada

# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHS

I would like to congratulate my brother Vernon Coon-Come and his girlfriend Patricia Einish on the birth of their baby girl Shayla Coon-Come who was born on September 26 2008. I can't wait to me meet ur babygurl.... we love you guys....love Priscilla, William and Angel...oh yah come visit us ok...

## BIRTHDAYS

I would like to wish Happy Birthdays to my sisters Pamela Pet on Oct 05 and to Angela Pet on Oct 29th. I wish you all the best and many more to come. Sister Angie see you @ the Resto...lol My baby sister gets to have a shot of hard stuff. Anyways I love you both so much!! Take care and enjoy your special days. XOX Love now and always Sister Genie Mam XOX

I would like to wish my son Adam-Felix Rene David Masty-Shem a Happy 9th Birthday on October 07. My boy is growing up so fast and so handsome, plus he plays hockey so well. It's like you were a baby just yesterday and you were just trying to say your name at only few months. Swinging you and Linda saying your name over and over and then you said "Ada" And you were just a baby that time. I can't believe your already 9 years old. You grow up too fast for me. Once again Happy 9th Birthday Adam-Felix!! I wish you all the best and many many more to come. I love you so much!! My lil Tomahawk #18 Adam Masty-Shem. XOX Love Mom, Genie Mam XOX

Birthday wishes going out to Stephanie Rupert on Oct 06, Allen Snowboy on Oct 15 and Kyran Rupert-Snowboy on Oct 29. We wish you all the best and many more to come. We hope you'll all enjoy your birthdays. XOX From your buddies Genie Mam & Josh Kawapit XOX :D :P

Happy 3rd Birthday to my adorable granddaughter Crystal Gilpin on October 9. Hope you have a fun and happy day. Luv u so much from GouGou Stella

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS going out to my niece Catherine Cheezo and nephew Albert Ta-Ta Jolly, both birthdays on October 9...Take time to reflect on the good and positive things in your life and be thankful for all your blessings..take care of yourselves and your loved ones...hope you enjoy your birthdays...Luv Auntie Stella

On Oct 20th, 2003 an angel named Antonia Leerona Star Shashaweskum was born. I wanna wish her a very Happy Birthday and lots of fun on your special day et un gros 5 ans une grande Fille maintenant je t'aime beaucoup dans le ciel et les étoiles pour toujours de maman Murielle Otter xoxoxoxoxo 5 gros callin et 5 gros bec

We would like to wish our son/brother Roman Georgekish a Happy 7th Birthday on September 26th. Love alway, Dad, Mom, Jean-Claude, Conway and Yanic.(WEMINDJI) Birthday Greetings to our Aunt, Sabrina Georgekish, on October 3rd. Love your nephews, Jean-Claude, Roman, Conway and Yanic GEORGEKISH(WEMINDJI)

## ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 30th Wedding Anniversary to Coom & Mary Matoush on September 29, 2008. May your day be as special as you both are! We love you and miss you. Tina, Isaac & Jr.

## IN MEMORIUM

In loving memory of the late Billy Boy Trapper. Billy Boy was born in Chibougamau on September 22, 1972. He lived with his parents, Samuel and Harriet Trapper. He had 5 brothers, 6 sisters, and 33 nephews and nieces. He was a Great Uncle of 7 great nephews and great nieces. He loved his family very much. Then one day, he found a woman of his dreams, and they got married on August 26, 1994. They had 3 boys Sam-Henry, Scott, and Niko. Billy Boy did good deeds to everyone he saw in need. He had a good helping hand, meaning he liked to help people who needed help, not only family members. (EVERYONE) I, Annie Laurie Trapper, truly miss my brother. I would like to celebrate his birthday on September 22. I wish you were still here with us, So I could wish you a happy birthday Bro. I miss you and love you a lot. I miss when you used to pick me up when I didn't have a ride to go to town. You would come in the middle of the night when I was still sleeping. When I used to tell you that I needed a ride, You would be there in no time. I cry sometimes when I think about that when I need a ride, wishing and hoping that you would come and pick us up. Billy Boy I miss everything about you. I just wish that you were still here with us. Hey!! Billy Boy there is this guy here in Nemaska that is similar to you I like. I'm Happy when I see him. He's almost like you and acts like you too, But I'm not going to name this person. I know that you can see him from above. But there is no one that can take your place in my heart. I will always remember you and only you, I will never forget you my brother. Billy Boy you were a special person in my life. Billy Boy will always be in my heart NEVER be forgotten. I will always love and miss you so much my brother. He was a loving and caring person, he was funny too. He liked to make us laugh, especial make my daughter Sandra, maybe she was a daughter to him that he never had. Billy Boy was happy to see her, same as Sandra too. Billy Boy was like a father to her that she never experience in her life, but one day about 4 years ago a man walked in to our lives, and Billy Boy was happy for us to have a man in our lives. I know deep down in my heart Billy Boy was happy, he told me to treat him with respect and show him a lot of love that we have in our hearts. Billy Boy was thankful for Solomon Wapachee to be in our lives and we all welcomed him to the family too. Billy Boy Thank you for everything that you have done for me and my family. We will miss you so much. Billy Boy went home to be with the Lord on October 18, 2007. It's going to be a year that he left us. It was a saddest day for the whole family, but we would like to thank all the people for their love & support and prayers. Thank you very much. BILLY BOY Rest In Peace. I will miss and love you so much. good-bye. Oh!!! No Good-byes, See you later. I hate Good byes... your sister that misses you so much, Annie Laurie Trapper

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Kid's Help Phone Line:** 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

**Youth helpline:** 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

**Parent helpline:** 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

**Drugs:** help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogueaidereference.qc.ca)

**Gambling:** help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:** 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

**Health and Sexuality resources center:** 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:** 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html.

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20
ENERGY STAR qualified notebook computers to be won*
Opt for ENERGY STAR® qualified windows and patio doors between September 1, 2008, and May 1, 2009.
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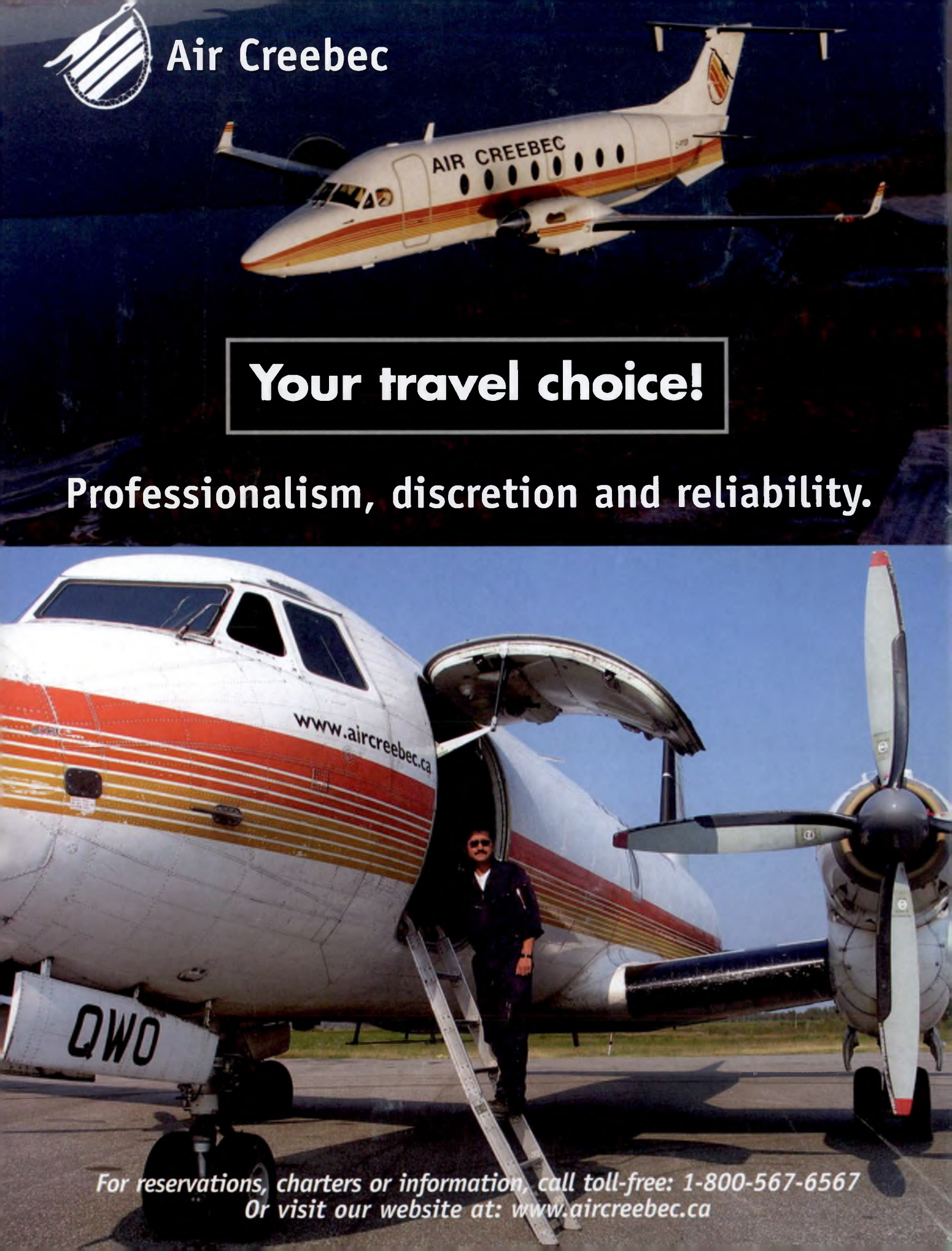
You Save and the Environment Benefits!

*This contest runs from September 1, 2008 to May 1, 2009, inclusive. It is open to Québec residents 18 years of age and older at the time of entering the contest or condominium associations (syndicates) that opt for ENERGY STAR® qualified windows or patio doors to renovate or construct a residential building in Québec. Other terms and conditions of contest participation apply. No purchase required. Participants must complete an entry form and send it to the address specified in the contest rules. Participants whose entry form is selected must answer a mathematical skill-testing question. The draw will be held on May 21, 2009. Prizes may differ from the illustration. The approximate retail value of each prize is $1,500. No cash alternatives or substitutions allowed. For more information, see the contest rules online at www.hydroquebec.com/residential or order a hard copy by calling 1 800 363-7443.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